

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are honored to recognize milestone  
4 achievements in the history of organizations in the State of  
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that the Mothers  
7 Outreach to Mothers Program of Vandalia (MOMS) was recently  
8 selected from various Illinois Department of Children and  
9 Family Services regions to receive the "Program Excellence  
10 Award" at the 2002 kick-off media conference for Child Abuse  
11 Prevention Month on March 21, 2002, at the State Capitol in  
12 Springfield; and

13 WHEREAS, The criteria for the "Program Excellence Award"  
14 include: the program must serve Illinois children, be an  
15 exemplary child abuse prevention program, exemplify  
16 family-focused and community-based ideals, include  
17 collaboration with other family services organizations, be in  
18 existence for three or more years, and be a not-for-profit  
19 organization; and

20 WHEREAS, MOMS is a program sponsored by Lutheran Child  
21 and Family Services; the program began in 1994 and offers  
22 mentoring, which pairs experienced volunteer mothers with  
23 mothers of newborns in Fayette and Effingham counties to  
24 provide education, support, and guidance; the program targets  
25 those newborns and their families who have identified risk  
26 factors, including isolation, lack of parenting skills, and  
27 parental stress; and

28 WHEREAS, Mentors of the MOMS Program work with the  
29 parents in a non-threatening manner, providing families with  
30 friendly support and opportunities to connect to resource  
31 groups and social gatherings in the community; in addition,  
32 mentors provide education and guidance to parents on issues

1 such as child development, feeding issues, child safety,  
2 budgeting, and establishing goals; and

3 WHEREAS, The volunteer staff of the MOMS Program are  
4 members of the Vandalia community who are dedicated to  
5 assisting new mothers and promoting family well-being in  
6 their community; their goal is to strengthen the parent's  
7 ability to offer a secure, stable, and safe home for their  
8 newborn; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we congratulate the Mothers Outreach to Mothers Program of  
12 Vandalia (MOMS) for it's dedication and service in assisting  
13 new mothers and promoting family well-being in Fayette and  
14 Effingham counties; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
16 presented to Mavis Gehant, Joan Henna, Pat Garbe, Gene  
17 Svebakken, J.R. Davidsmeyer, Ann Ferguson, David Roth, and  
18 Brent Diers as an expression of our esteem.